

Amendments to the Claims

A complete list of pending claims follows, with indicated amendments:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for installing hardware cards ~~components~~ in an installation slot in a motherboard of locations ~~in~~ a computer system, wherein the computer system includes a base architecture, comprising:

compiling a list of the hardware cards ~~components~~;

assigning an installation slot location for each hardware card ~~component~~ of the ~~computer system~~;

evaluating each hardware card ~~component~~ ~~of the computer system~~ to determine if the hardware card ~~component~~ is compatible with respect to the other hardware cards ~~components~~ of the computer system;

evaluating the compatibility of each hardware card ~~component~~ ~~of the computer system~~ with respect to the a base architecture of the computer system;

displaying in graphical form the assigned installation slots ~~locations~~ of the hardware cards ~~components~~ ~~of the computer system~~ following a successful evaluation of the compatibility of the hardware cards ~~components~~ with respect to (a) the other hardware cards ~~components~~ of the computer system and (b) the base architecture of the computer system; and

installing the hardware cards ~~components~~ according to the assigned installation slots ~~locations~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of evaluating the compatibility of each hardware card ~~component~~ of the computer system with respect to the base

architecture of the computer system further comprises the step of evaluating the compatibility of the installation slot location with respect to a selected hardware card component.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the list of hardware cards ~~components~~ includes custom hardware cards ~~components~~ selected for installation by a customer of the computer system.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of compiling a list of hardware cards ~~components~~ comprises the step of generating an architecture resource file that includes an identification of the hardware cards ~~components~~ and base architecture of the computer system.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying instructions identifying incompatible hardware cards ~~components~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of compiling a list of hardware cards ~~components~~ comprises the step of receiving a customer order and generating a list of hardware cards ~~components~~ from the customer order.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of assigning an identification number to the computer system.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the identification number is a serial number.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the identification number identifies assembled hardware cards ~~components~~.
10. (Cancelled).
11. (Cancelled).
12. (Currently Amended) A method for assigning installation slots ~~locations~~ for hardware cards ~~components~~ in a computer system, comprising the steps of:
- receiving a list of hardware cards ~~components~~;
 - evaluating whether each hardware card ~~component~~ is compatible with every other hardware card;
 - selecting an installation slot ~~location~~ for each hardware card ~~component in the computer system~~; and
 - displaying a graphical representation of the installation slots ~~locations~~ of the hardware cards ~~components of the computer system~~.
13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the hardware cards ~~components~~ include custom hardware cards ~~components~~ selected for installation by a customer of the computer system.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of evaluating the compatibility of each hardware card ~~component~~ includes the step of evaluating the compatibility of each card ~~component~~ with respect to other hardware cards ~~components~~ of the computer system and a base architecture of the computer system.

15-20. Cancelled.